

A M E R I C A N F A R M E R.

RURAL ECONOMY, INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS, PRICE CURRENT.

"O fortunatos nimium sua si bona norint
Agricolae." VIRG.

VOL. III.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1821.

NUM. 13.

AGRICULTURE.

THE CATTLE SHOW & FAIR.

The Cattle Show and Fair advertised by the Maryland Agricultural Society, was held pursuant to notice on the 7th and 8th days of June, at the Maryland Tavern, four miles from the City of Baltimore, on the Frederick-Town turnpike road.

The weather was exceedingly warm, but otherwise propitious. Public expectation had been excited for some time, and many persons sanguinely expected to enjoy the high gratification of viewing a very large collection of fine and valuable animals.

Nor were these persons disappointed in the smallest degree, for the stock was both numerous and valuable. The crowd of spectators was embarrassingly large, and far out ran any calculation on this point. We had the pleasure to recognize many most zealous, enterprising and intelligent Farmers, with some distinguished Breeders and Graziers, from every section of this state, and several from the District of Columbia, and the states of Pennsylvania, Virginia and Delaware.

The animals chiefly arrived the day previous to the Fair, and were safely and judiciously placed in the stables and uncovered pens allotted to them; but the number of animals so far exceeded the expectations of the Committee of Arrangement, that they had to construct many pens for their reception even on the first day of the fair.

The pleasant shade under which the animals were displayed, on the very margin of a copious stream of fine water, contributed in a great degree to allay the heat of the day, and afforded other actual and striking conveniences, which, when properly improved, will ensure to the Society, an highly eligible position for its future exhibitions.

When the Society had pretty generally assembled, the President took the chair, and the various committees were appointed to examine the stock, to award the premiums, and to report thereon. When the members of the Society had paid their respective contributions, which were voluntary and liberal, they proceeded with the committees and spectators, to view the different animals and implements exhibited for their present gratification and future advantage.

The Horses were paraded, in the presence of an immense assemblage, before the committee appointed to examine them.

It was difficult to repress the curiosity of the crowd, so far as to have sufficient room for the movements of all the horses. It was truly an interesting scene to behold fifteen to twenty noble steeds, in repressed exercise, exhibited to thousands of admiring spectators. After

the exhibition of the Horses, the company sat down to a good dinner, prepared for their refreshment, by Mr. Stone—and then repaired to the pens in which the other animals were exhibited, and to the lot in which the implements were displayed, and passed the rest of the day in reviewing more minutely and leisurely the several articles brought for exhibition.

On the 8th day of June, the members of the Society and a very large number of spectators, repaired to the Show and Fair, being still favoured by good weather.

After the reports of the several committees, on the animals exhibited and entered for premiums, had been delivered to the President, the company were assembled on an eminence, and the successful candidates called near to the President to receive the most flattering evidence of the merits of their animals. The delivery of the premiums was prefaced by the following remarks, made by the President in behalf of several of the committees.

"Gentlemen—The Committees have, in common with their fellow members of the Maryland Agricultural Society, been highly gratified in viewing the animals which have been exhibited to the public, and entered for our premiums on the present occasion, for in number they have fully equalled, and in excellence they have greatly surpassed our most sanguine expectations.

In several instances the committees have found it difficult to decide between animals, which in every important point so nearly equalled each other, that each of them, would in their opinion, have been entitled to a premium, if the funds of the Society were adequate to the occasion.

But they proceeded in the performance of the duty that has been assigned them, placing a just reliance upon the liberality of those whose laudable zeal, has led them to become competitors. The committees are persuaded that the owners of stock have been induced to exhibit them, more from their desire to call the public attention by comparison, to the present state of our domestic animals and to point out the advantages and the means of making important, necessary and general improvements, than from the mere desire of obtaining the premiums. And since the chief objects of all seem to be assured by the spirit which has been manifested on the present occasion, the committees confidently hope that whatever unpleasant feelings their decisions may create, will be but momentarily indulged by those, who are at this time unsuccessful competitors more from the paucity of our means, than from any deficiency in their animals."

The President then delivered the premiums, in obedience to the will of the Society, and in

accordance with the following Reports of the several Committees.

ON HORSES.

The undersigned, a committee appointed by the Maryland Agricultural Society, at their June meeting, to view the horses entered as competitors for the Society's premiums, and to award the same, beg leave to report that, they have performed the duty assigned to them, and have decided as follows:—

For the Stallion Columbia, he being the best calculated to improve our stock of COACH HORSES, they award to Thomas Sheppard, of Frederick county, the Silver Pitcher, valued at \$30

For the Stallion Arrow, he being the best calculated for the Saddle and general Farm purposes, they award to Nimrod Owings, of Frederick county, a pair of Silver Goblets, valued at \$20

For the best Brood Mare, they award to Joshua Gist, of Frederick county, the Silver Butter Boat, valued at \$10

The Committee viewed with great interest the Mare exhibited by Mr. Dudderar, of Frederick county, as she had proved to be a most valuable animal, having been the Dam of 12 colts, 11 of which are now living—four of these, fine large horses that drew his wagon to the Show—whilst the mare brought her youngest colt sucking at her side.

The Committee are of opinion that the Stallion "Messenger," offered by W. R. Stewart, is highly worthy of distinction, and they regret that they could not award him a premium, as he was not bred within this state.

The Stallion "Young Tom," offered by D. Williamson and John S. Skinner, of Baltimore county, attracted their particular notice, but not being made to exhibit all of the requisites prescribed, they could not award him one of the premiums.

The Stallion "Young Friendship", owned by Col. Hood, of Anne Arundle county, is esteemed by the Committee, as eminently well calculated to improve our stock of horses for the Saddle; but not possessing all of the requisites exacted by the Committee of Arrangements, they could not award him either of the premiums.

The Committee noticed with great satisfaction, four very beautiful and highly promising Blood Colts—two exhibited by Gen. Charles Ridgely of Hampton; and the others by Richard Caton, Esq. They were also particularly pleased with the beautiful spotted Colt, exhibited by Mr. Mabury, of Frederick county, which excited the universal admiration of the spectators.

The Full Bred Virginia Horse Clifton, was likewise shown and greatly admired, but not having been raised in Maryland, he was not a candidate for any premium.

In closing their Report, the Committee congratulate the Society on their prospects of future usefulness, as evinced by the specimens of fine stock exhibited on this occasion.

EDWARD LLOYD,
ROBERT LYON,
FRISBY TILGHMAN, } Committee.

OF ASSES AND MULES.

The Committee appointed to examine the Asses and Mules, presented for the premiums and notice

* One of which out of an Oscar mare, by the celebrated Tuckahoe, three years old, is fifteen hands three inches high.

of the Society, report, that they have found great satisfaction in looking at these animals.

For the best Jack Ass, they award O. H. Stull, of Washington county, the premium of a Silver Can, valued at \$10

For the best Jennett, they award to R. J. Jones, of Queen Anne's county, the premium of a Silver Can, valued at \$10

For the largest Mule of the very excellent pair offered by O. H. Stull, they award the premium of a pair of Goblets, valued at \$20

The Mules respectively offered by Hy. Thompson, Wm. Patterson, R. J. Jones and George Calvert, were all very good, and they richly deserve premiums; but as one alone had been offered by the Society, for this description of stock, more could not therefore be awarded. The Mule offered by Jacob Hollingsworth, was particularly deserving of a premium, being only two years old, 15 hands high, with great bone and muscle.—The team of Mules offered by Geo. Howard, Esq. made truly a fine display of the excellence which may be attained by care in breeding and raising these very serviceable animals.

The uncommonly large and valuable Maltese Jack Sango, shown by Mr. Skinner, attracted and deserved our particular attention, but being an imported animal, he was not considered a candidate for the premium.

EDWARD LLOYD,
ROBERT LYON, } Committee.
JAMES NABB.

NEAT CATTLE.

The Committee appointed by the Maryland Agricultural Society, to examine and award premiums for the best Neat Cattle, present the following Report.

OF BULLS.

For the best Bull, not less than two years old, they award to John Green, of Baltimore county, the premium of a pair of Silver Goblets, for his very large and fine Bull of the Holland breed.

For the best Bull, under two years old, they award a Silver Can to Major Thomas Emory, of Queen Anne's county, for his Young Bull of the Irish and Holderness Cross.

The Committee noticed and admired a very fine Bull of the Bakewell breed, exhibited by George Calvert, of Prince George's county; and a very fine Bull of the Bakewell and Holland Cross, exhibited by General Charles Ridgely, of Hampton; who also, shewed a full bred Alderney Bull Calf, of fine form, stated to be five months and six days old, and to have attained the very extraordinary weight of 672 lbs.—They also noticed with great pleasure, Major Isaac McKim's two year old full bred Alderney Bull Mark Anthony, a descendant of the very valuable stock imported by Mr. Creighton—he is certainly a fine specimen of that valuable breed. They also remarked the very beautiful Holderness Bull Calf Columella, obtained from Massachusetts by John S. Skinner—he is descended from the British Stock, owned by Gorham Parsons, of Brighton, that have been extolled by the Massachusetts Agricultural Society. Columella promises to be a very valuable acquisition to the state.

The Committee were particularly pleased with a fine Bull Calf of Geo. Calvert's, and a young Bull exhibited by Essex Sterrett, a half bred Alderney, of good figure, from a very valuable Dam.

OF COWS.

The Committee were highly gratified by the great number, and very fine appearance and character of the Milch Cows, submitted to their observation; in every respect their highest hopes were realized in this display. Those severally presented by Martin Eichelberger, Hy. Thompson, Jos. Patterson, Robt. Smith, and Mr. Whitmore, are considered peculiarly valuable; but they have felt it to be their duty, to award the Silver Tumbler to General Charles Ridgely, of Hampton, for his dun cow, the best out of four very fine ones of the Dutch and Bakewell Cross which he presented to their view.

Several very fine Calves descended from the Devon Cattle, presented by Mr. Coke, of English Norfolk, to Mr. Patterson of Baltimore, from a philanthropic desire to advance the Agricultural interest of America, were exhibited and universally admired. They were eagerly enquired after by every body, and by many from a desire to purchase.—It is a matter of regret that these fine animals cannot be more rapidly diffused through the state; and that some of the Bulls have not been offered to the public use; for the interest which they excited, was truly gratifying to those who knew and appreciated the laudable intentions of the generous donor. Many Calves of improved breeds, and half bred Alderneys and Bakewells, were shown, and served clearly to establish the great advantages that attend even the first step towards the improvement of this most valuable species of domestic animals.

The Committee admired the heifers of Wm. Gibson—they are truly fine specimens of our best country breed—the half bred Alderney Calf, of Job Smith, from an excellent dam, is a beautiful and uncommonly fine one: but they have awarded the premium of a Silver Cream Pot to Hy. Thompson, for his Cow Calf, being a very beautiful Heifer of the Alderney and Devon Cross.

And under their authority to take into consideration the qualities of stock, offered for discretionary premiums, the Committee further report, that in their opinion the Teeswater Bull Bergami, owned by John S. Skinner, of Baltimore, merits in the highest degree, the notice of the Society; and they particularly recommend him to the Agriculturists of the state of Maryland, as possessing all of the qualities most requisite to improve the stock of Neat-Cattle in this state. Their attention was also particularly attracted by a Teeswater Bull Calf, belonging to Lloyd N. Rogers, and by the form and Beauty of a Teeswater Cow, of Dr. Allen Thomas. They recommend these three animals, as severally worthy of a discretionary premium.

EDWARD LLOYD,
JNO. WOODEN, of Jno. } Committee.
ROGER BROOKE,
JAMES NABB.

OF OXEN.

The Committee regret that there were but two Yoke of Oxen exhibited for the premium, and also that suitable arrangements could not be made, to try these at the plough; however, they were otherwise enabled to decide that the pair exhibited by Jos. Trimble, were entitled to the premium of six table spoons, valued at \$25.

The yoke exhibited by Levi Hartly, were also very fine animals, and had been well broken to labour.

The Committee will not pass by in silence, the uncommonly large steers brought for exhibition by Mr. T. C. Miller, from Adams county, Pennsylvania, measuring in height upwards of six feet.

There was also a very beautiful young Steer, of uncommon great growth, and fine form which had been raised by Mr. Gibson.

ROGER BROOKE,
WM. GIBSON, } Committee.
JNO. YELLOT, Jr.

OF HOGS.

The Committee were much surprised and highly gratified by the excellent display of Hogs, of different and good breeds. OF BOARS—there were some remarkably fine ones exhibited—one by each of the following persons, Jacob Hollingsworth, Roger Brooke, David Frame and Thomas Lewis. The Boar which Mr. Hawkins, of Q. Anne's county, exhibited, was of a breed well calculated to give great weight at an early age; but for the exhibition of the Boar of Colonel Potter, likewise possessing this profitable disposition in a high degree, added to a peculiarly fine form the Committee have thought it their duty to award the premium of a Silver Goblet, valued at \$10.

The Committee observed with great pleasure, the Boar-Pigs exhibited by David Williamson, and think

that they are of a breed well calculated to improve our stock of Hogs—these pigs were however considered by them, as too young to contend for the premium offered for the best Boar.

Several of the SOWS presented to the view of the Committee were certainly very good ones; they particularly noticed those offered by Wm. Gibson, Jacob Hollingsworth and Stephen Griffith, as being severally very good; and likewise some very fine Sow-Pigs offered by Roger Brooke and David Williamson; but the Committee are of the opinion, that John S. Skinner, is entitled to the premium of a Silver Goblet, valued at \$10, for the exhibition of his Breeding Sow, she being a very good one, having farrowed 30 pigs at two litters, and of which she raised 27.

There were two Barrows of enormous weight, offered as a curiosity to the view of the spectators by Mr. Canowles—they were so large and fat, as to be scarcely capable of moving.

GEO. CALVERT,
JAMES STEUART, } Committee.
B. W. HALL.

OF SHEEP.

The Committee appointed to inspect the Sheep exhibited to the Society are of the opinion that, the Merino Rams are not of that superior character, which should alone entitle them to distinction. But out of them, they award under the terms of the Show, the premium of a silver Can, valued at \$10 to R. Brooke, of Montgomery Co. They are also of the opinion that Col. Edward Lloyd is entitled to the premium of the silver Can valued at \$10 for the exhibition of the best six Wethers; which were uncommonly fine: they had been fed during the Winter and early spring; on corn, generally in the ear but sometimes chopped; with clover hay and corn fodder, no turnips, and since upon a good pasture of natural grasses.

A very fine Dishley Ram was exhibited by Lloyd N. Rogers, and the committee regret that they could not award him a premium, the Ram not having been raised within the state.

SAMUEL OWINGS
THOMAS EMORY
W. R. STEWART.

RECAPITULATION.—STATED PREMIUMS.

For the best STALLION, for the breed of COACH HORSES, to Thoms Shepherd of Frederick County, a silver Pitcher, valued at \$30

For the best STALLION, for SADDLE and FARMING purposes, to Nimrod Owings, of Frederick County a pair of silver Goblets, valued at \$20

For the best BROOD-MARE, to Joshua Gist of Frederick County, a silver Butter-Boat, valued at \$10

For the best JACK ASS, to Mr. O. H. Stull, of Washington County, a silver Can, valued at \$10

For the best JENNETT, to Mr. Richard J. Jones of Queen Anne's County, a silver Can, valued at \$10

For the best MULE, to Mr. O. H. Stull of Washington County, a pair of silver Goblets, valued at \$20

For the best BULL, to John Green of Baltimore County, a pair of silver Goblets, valued at \$20

For the best BULL CALF, to Thomas Emory of Queen Anne's County, a silver Can, valued at \$10

For the best MILCH COW, to Gen. Chas. Ridgely of Hampton, a pair of silver Tumblers, valued at \$20

For the best COW-CALF, to Captain Hen-

ry Thompson of Baltimore, a silver Can, valued at	\$10
For the best YOKE OF WORKING-OXEN, to Joseph Trimble, six silver Spoons, valued at	\$25
For the best BOAR, to Col. Potter, of Caroline County, a silver Goblet, valued at	\$10
For the best BREEDING-SOW, to John S. Skinner of Baltimore, a silver Goblet, valued at	\$10
For the best MERINO RAM, to Roger Brooke of Montgomery County, a silver Can, valued at	\$10
For the best SIX FAT WETHERS, to Col. Edward Lloyd of Talbot County, a silver Can, valued at	\$10
<i>Discretionary Premiums.</i>	
For the <i>Teeswater Bull</i> of John S. Skinner, a silver Can, valued at	\$10
For the <i>Teeswater Bull</i> of Lloyd N. Rogers, of Baltimore County, a silver Can, valued at	\$10
For the <i>Teeswater Cow</i> of Doctor Allen Thomas, a silver Can, valued at	\$10

IMPLEMENTS OF HUSBANDRY.

The committee appointed to examine the Implements of Husbandry exhibited to the Maryland Agricultural Society, have the honor to report—

That the extent and variety of the articles exhibited was very great. Of PLOUGHS, specimens of the invention or manufacture of eight different persons were shown—of Mr. Chenoweth, Mr. Sinclair, and Mr. Ford of the city of Baltimore; of Mr. Hinks of Baltimore county; of Mr. Davis of Georgetown, D. C.; of Mr. Wood, by Mr. Barnard of Philadelphia; and of Mr. Murray of Hagerstown; all, in the opinion of the Committee, well constructed and valuable instruments. Of the particular or relative merits of most of them, as there were no means of submitting them to efficient trial, nothing can be said with certainty. It would, however, be improper not to remark that, two of those ploughs, are of recent introduction, and likely to be found advantageous; that is to say, the Hill-side Plough made by Mr. Sinclair, on the principle of Col. Randolph's Plough, with shifting mould boards, as being easily managed and well calculated for the important purpose of horizontal ploughing on hill sides: and Mr. Davis' cast iron shovel plough on a new construction, as a cheap and efficient cultivator.

OF STRAW CUTTERS.—There were five exhibited, one each by Mr. Skevostzer, Mr. Hyde, Mr. Davis, Mr. Eastman,* and Mr. Barnard. These were all carefully tested by actual experiment, and the committee was of opinion that, the one manufactured by Mr. Barnard is the most operative, and from its simplicity, best calculated for general use.

OF WHEAT FANS, there were two kinds, one exhibited by Mr. Watkins, the other by Mr. Beatty.

The Committee determined that the one made by Mr. Watkins of Hagerstown is decidedly to be preferred—it works with three screens, and it was deemed an exceedingly

valuable improvement in this necessary implement.

A HARROW of peculiar construction made by Mr. Barnard, from an English design, to expand and contract at the will of the operator, appeared to the Committee to be an adjustment not only curious but useful.

There were several other very ingenious improvements on English implements, to adapt them to the use of this country—such as Mr. Sinclair's machine for sowing plaster of Paris, grain, and grass seeds—his corn planter, for drilling Indian corn and garden seeds:

Mr. Bernard's turnip drill; Mr. Ford's roller, and the scarifiers made by each of these artificers.

Mr. E. S. Thomas of Baltimore had on the ground a large and valuable collection of imported agricultural implements, such as ploughs, drills, hay-makers, apple-mills, turnip-slicers, many of which seem to be well adapted to their several objects, and which may possibly be used with advantage in our husbandry.

The Committee presuming that it is within the sphere of the duties assigned to them, beg leave to mention that there was exhibited a little machine for domestic manufacture—a wool spinner, worked by hand, drawing six threads, invented by a Mr. Brown of Rhode-Island; it is simple and easily kept in order—they believe that it will be a valuable acquisition in Families.

JOHN MASON
J. H. POWELL } COMMITTEE.
SM. OWINGS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT ITS JUNE MEETING.

At a meeting of the Maryland Agricultural Society, held at the Maryland Tavern, on the 7th and 8th days of June, the following proceedings were had:—

The president having taken the chair, the various committees were appointed to inspect, and report on the animals exhibited for premiums.

The subscriptions of the old, and many new members of the Society were then received.

The Society spent the rest of the day in viewing the various, beautiful and valuable animals and implements collected for their gratification and the public good.

SECOND DAY.

The society met and received the reports of its several committees on the Stock exhibited, and the President delivered the premiums to the successful candidates as awarded by the committees.

The election was then held and the officers of the last year were re-elected—to wit:

ROBERT SMITH, *President.*

EDWARD LLOYD, *Vice-President.*

JOHN E. HOWARD, jr. *Secretary.*

J. S. SKINNER, *Corresponding Sec'y.*

Board of Agriculture for the Western Shore of Maryland.

Charles Ridgely, of H.
John T. Mason,
Frisby Tilghman,
Virgil Maxcy,
Wm. E. Williams,
George Calvert,

James Steuart,
Henry Wilkins,
Elisha De Butts,
John Yellott, jr.
and
Jacob Hollingsworth.

The following resolutions were then adopted by the Society.

Resolved, That the president and vice-president of this Society be authorised to appoint one agriculturist in each county in the State, and one from the District of Columbia, to form a Convention to meet in the City of Baltimore, on the 2d Monday in Sept. next, whose duty it shall be to revise the present Constitution of the Agricultural Society—and to make such amendments thereto as may be deemed necessary or proper—and further, that said convention shall have full power to make all such arrangements as they may deem necessary, more effectually to promote the objects for which this Society has been established.

Resolved further, that if any person appointed should not be able to attend, that he have full power to depute some other in his stead, the object being to ensure the representation of each county in the State.

Resolved, That the Secretaries of the Society be requested to attend the meetings of the above Convention.

On motion of the Hon: Edward Lloyd,

Resolved unanimously by the Society, That in their opinion the "American Farmer," edited by John S. Skinner, Esq. is a publication justly entitled to the patronage and support of every farmer and planter, and that its Editor deserves our approbation for his judicious and zealous efforts to advance the interests of agriculture.

Resolved, That the thanks of this Society be offered to John S. Skinner, Esq. and to the members of the Committee of Arrangement for the able and meritorious manner in which they have conducted all of the arrangements that were necessary to be adopted for the purpose of holding the Cattle Show and Fair, which have been so gratifying to all who compose the said Society.

Resolved, That the discretionary premiums be given as recommended by the Committee on Neat-Cattle, in their report.

Resolved, That of the funds in hand, there be appropriated Forty Dollars to be given in four premiums of silver plate, for the exhibition of such implements as shall be reported as worthy of receiving them, by the Committee on Implements; and that J. S. Skinner, Esq. be authorised and requested to have them made and delivered.

The Society, honoured by the company of distinguished agricultural visitors from the adjoining States, then partook of a dinner which had been provided for them; and afterwards adjourned to attend the offer of some valuable animals and useful implements at Public-Sale before they left the ground.

In reviewing the circumstances of this exhibition, we cannot help congratulating the agriculturists generally upon the good consequences likely to result from it. The beneficial tendency of such displays is universally acknowledged; nor will it be long before the influence of the Maryland Society will be felt in the most unequivocal manner. The view of our best Live-Stock, and the practical knowledge gained, as to the points which the most eminent breeders have found it most important to encourage in each description of domestic animals, will correct the erroneous notions ge-

* Hotchkisses improved.

nerally entertained, and often indulged even by experienced farmers. It is difficult to convince us that favourite animals have real defects, after we had exercised our partial judgments in selecting, and paid almost parental care in raising them; but when some of the best animals of this and foreign countries are grouped before us so as to be easily compared, seeing then becomes believing, and we are compelled to yield up our opinions by the force of ocular demonstration. We offer the following illustration, and we know that we shall be forgiven, since we only use it in confirmation of our preceding remarks. A farmer brought to the present show a Bull of his own raising, and confidently recorded him as a candidate for the first premium—this animal had been considered a very fine one in the neighbourhood in which he was bred—and the owner and his neighbours believed that he would deserve and take the prize—But, upon comparison, this Bull was seen to be only a middle sized and coarse animal, marked it is true by strong points, but these were rather defects, such as we should strive to obliterate. The worthy owner went home satisfied that his knowledge had been defective; that the true principles of breeding Stock can only be discovered by critical comparison and judicious observation. It is the chief object of these meetings to afford suitable opportunities for the farmers, who repair to them, to make these important examinations upon the subject of their business: that, instead of passing through the inexperience of agricultural infancy, they may be enabled to commence at once in the vigour & strength of manhood. The general interest excited by these public spectacles has another salutary effect; it arouses our attention and determines it to agricultural subjects. "Why," said a gentleman distinguished among us for public spirit, who was a few days after the show riding over the fine estate of a member of the committee of arrangements, and was admiring the beauty and expatiating upon the superior excellence of the different breeds of animals before them, "Why," said he, "as often as I have visited you, I never before knew that you had such fine animals as we now see here!! Tell me, how has this happened?" "It was," the other modestly replied, "because, my friend, you never, until this day have felt the least desire to see my stock." This visitor we understand now wishes to possess, and intends to import and to raise animals, as valuable as those owned by his judicious friend.

It is in this manner that a laudable emulation will be excited and directed, that our wealthy citizens will become generous competitors, proud of securing real advantages to the State, and of distinguishing themselves as the importers of the best animals, from all parts of the world—they may thus become true benefactors of their country. The individual who claims the merit of having first introduced the culture of cotton as a crop in the Southern States, yet lives in Georgia; and he is justly more proud of the honour of having thereby saved the planters of the South from ruin, than he could be of a Nabob's wealth.

In conclusion, we would take passing notice of

the great facility with which persons from some distance, attended the meeting—from Philadelphia several of the members of their agricultural society—from Delaware several proprietors of its rich meadows, on which the celebrated cattle and sheep are fatted—from the E. Shore our Vice-president, and some of its distinguished agriculturists—from the District of Columbia and its neighbourhood, citizens, public-officers and warriors who have long been known and universally esteemed—from beyond the Blue Mountains some of the most eminent of those who till that fertile and productive valley—in short, from every quarter the access was so easy or direct, that leaving home on the day or the evening preceding and some even on the morning of the Show—the company assembled on the ground, and went through the business of the day without complaining of fatigue, or feeling any inconvenience from the undertaking.

The distance from which Ploughs and other large implements were brought for exhibition, as noticed by the Committee, is very remarkable; especially, when it is considered that the plan of the exhibition did not at first offer any direct rewards for the best that should be displayed; and, although the Committee upon Implements have not awarded the premiums placed at their disposition—still we understand and are happy to hear, that the interests of their makers have been substantially benefitted by the exhibition: Some sales were made, and in some instances many orders given for approved implements—the consequences will, we are persuaded, be mutually and greatly beneficial to the Artists and Farmers.

J. E. HOWARD, Jr. Sec'ry.

From the Massachusetts Agricultural Journal.

A PREMIUM CROP OF POTATOES.

GENTLEMEN—In entering the lists of competition for your premiums on agricultural products, I deem it necessary to state that the land in which one acre of potatoes were raised (and entered at Brighton, October 16th, 1820,) the present year, was broken up in October, 1819. The two years previous, had been used as part of a sheep pasture, on which the sheep were folded at night. The situation of the land, is near the foot of a heavy swell, and is gently inclining to the east, the soil a dark yellowish loam, such as we call chesnut land. In the spring of 1820, the land was cross-ploughed and harrowed, and between the 21st and 27th of May, the crop was put in, in the following manner. Six furrows were cut lengthwise the piece, (as owing to the local situation of the land, the whole manure had to be carried across the field in various directions, which will account for six furrows at a time only.) The manure, (which in quantity, was about 37 loads, and in quality, that made from neat cattle and sheep, the 20 loads from sheep was three fourths straw, their winter litter) spread in, and the cut potatoes planted one foot apart, the horse plough then followed, throwing the loam on the manure and potatoes; this again followed by the hand hoe to dress down, or add the

loam, which completes the process in about half the time and much better, likewise, than the same entirely performed with the hoe.

In ten days the weeding commenced by running the horse-plough as near the manure as possible, throwing the loam in a ridge between the rows (which were three feet apart) following with the hoe to dress the plants. About the 22d June, the ridges were split with the horse-plough, throwing an equal quantity of the same to each row, followed with the hoe as above.—The vines at this time were not more than 8 inches in height and not yet in the bud. From this time, the field was not entered till harvest which commenced the 23d October, and on finishing the same, had by admeasurement, six hundred and fourteen bushels.

The seed used, was forty bushels, part the Rio-de-la-Plate reds, and the remainder the Fitchburg whites. The reds gave a superior yield on a like quantity of land in the proportion of six to eleven, in bushels, but the whites were five pounds in a bushel the heaviest.

I would here observe (with much deference to the opinion of more experience farmers) that as the present season has been too hot and dry for potatoes, I think 700 bushels can be produced from the acre in this country in our best seasons, for the successful culture of this valuable root.

Expense arising from the culture of one acre of potatoes in the year 1820.

Breaking up	-	-	-	\$5.00
Cross-ploughing and all other labor in planting	-	-	-	12.00
37 buck loads manure	-	-	-	37.00
40 bushels potatoes, at 25 cts.	-	-	-	10.00
2 hoeings	-	-	-	8.00
Harvesting the crop, one man 20 days at 75 cts.	-	-	-	15.00
				<hr/> \$87.00

PAYSON WILLIAMS,
AARON BIXBY

WORCESTER, ss. Nov. 8th, 1820.

Personally appeared Payson Williams, and Aaron Bixby, and made oath, that the foregoing statement subscribed by said Payson Williams, and the said Aaron Bixby, contains the truth.

Before me,

CALVIN WILLARD. *Justice Peace.*

This is to certify that I, Philip F. Cowden, being sworn surveyor of the town of Fitchburg, in the county of Worcester, have this day surveyed a certain piece of potatoes, for Payson Williams, and find the same to contain one acre and no more.

PHILIP F. COWDEN.

Fitchburg, September 28th, 1820.

TO PRESERVE CABBAGES AND POT HERBS FROM CATERPILLARS AND OTHER INSECTS.

Sow hemp on all the boarders where you intend to plant cabbages.

You will be astonished to see, that, although all the neighbourhood is infested, the space inclosed by the hemp, will be perfectly

free from them—no vermin of the caterpillar kind will approach them.

This arises either from the aversion they have to this plant, or the fondness birds have for perching on it, which enables them at the same time to destroy the caterpillars. J. S.

AN ADDRESS

Delivered before the Agricultural Society of Susquehanna County, at its organization, December 6, 1820. By R. H. ROSE, Esq.

GENTLEMEN—The formation of the Agricultural Society, and our meeting this day, are evidences of the interest we take in the welfare of the country, and of a desire to improve the agricultural information of ourselves and our neighbours.

It is unnecessary for me to trace the origin and history of Agriculture, the most important of all branches of knowledge; or to shew the estimation in which it has been held by the wisest and best men in all ages. It must be evident to every one, that it is the origin of all wealth, the foundation of all power. It is useless to quote the page of history for the names of those who have been called from the toils of the field, to save or to govern empires. In our own times, and among our own citizens, we see, drawn from the plough, many splendid examples of civic knowledge and military skill. The duties of the rural life are those to which the greater part of our citizens are bred; and in the tranquillity of its scenes, nearly all mankind in their wane of years, love to recline. The different Presidents of the United States have retired from the busy pomp of office, to repose in the calm seclusion of their farms; and they, whose eloquence has charmed, and whose knowledge has enlightened nations, have, with a wisdom greatly to be admired, returned to the domestic duties of the common citizen, apparently desirous of being distinguished above their neighbours only, by being more expert and scientific farmers. And this is equally wise and patriotic; for Agriculture is the basis of our population and prosperity; and he who disseminates a knowledge of its improvements, adds to the physical force of his country.

The knowledge of Agriculture is generally supposed to be simple, and easily to be acquired; and this belief has prevented many from paying that attention to it which is necessary, in order to be well informed in its details. But, besides persevering industry, and unremitting care, which are indispensably necessary—science is as important here as in any thing else, and no one need hope to become a skilful farmer, without a widely extended knowledge of things connected with his art. Placed as we are, in a new country, of much natural fertility, we are not called upon to renovate exhausted or worn out lands, but all the skill requisite for the farmer who tills those, is equally important for us, in order to prevent the exhaustion of that fertility with which our fields are given to us. Skilful culture can make a poor farm rich; and it must therefore be unpardonable neglect to suffer a rich farm to become poor.

A farmer should be well informed of the nature of soils, and of the various plants adapted to them, in order that he may cultivate such as are best calculated for his particular fields, and not to waste his labour on those which flourish most in other situations.

Geologists suppose our earth to have been masses of rock of various kinds, but principally silicious, aluminous, calcareous, & magnesian—from the gradual attrition, decay and mixture of which, together with an addition of vegetable and animal matter, is formed the soil; and this is called sandy, clayey, calcareous, or magnesian, according as the particular primitive material preponderates in its formation. Sand, clay, and limestone, or calcareous earth, each operates as a manure upon the others, when they exist in too great proportion; in consequence of producing, by their intermixture, the requisite state of cohesion, not too loose nor too rigid for the roots of plants; and it is observed by that celebrated agricultural chemist, Sir Humphrey Davy, that no soil is fertile which contains as much as nineteen parts out of twenty of any of the constituent earths which have been mentioned. Different vegetables flourish best in different modifications of these component parts, as they prefer dry or moist situations; but the most valuable soil for general purposes, is that in which they are mixed in such proportions, as, while moisture is suffered to pass freely, and roots easily pervade it, there is sufficient tenacity to give support to the plants, and enable them to spread their leaves and branches to the light and air, and to resist the impulse of the winds.

Plants resemble animals in many parts of their system. The roots and leaves serve the purposes of a mouth and lungs; and in many other instances of their economy, they are not unlike the organization of the nobler parts of creation. They are operated on by food and stimuli much in the same way; and in like manner, are they, in decomposition, an appropriate food for the vegetable system. Some plants, as the *dionaea muscipula*, the various species of the mimosa, &c. evince an inherent power of motion, and shrink at the slightest touch. The disposition of every tree to throw out its branches towards open places, in order to obtain light and air, and to send off its roots in the most suitable directions in search of food, displays an apparent consciousness of situation. A tree, growing in a position where it is surrounded by others, and defended from the winds, disperses its roots in quest of nutriment near the surface where it is most abundant, & wastes none of its strength in low limbs, but springs upwards, tall and thin. But the same kind of tree in a situation exposed to the storm, takes firm and deep root in the ground, and, as if conscious of the power of a lever, spreads its branches below, while it contents itself with a moderate height, that the gale may the more readily pass over it.

It has been contested, whether earth is of any use to plants, except to afford them a support; water being supposed their chief, and, by some, their only food; but all plants, in some degree partake of the soil in which they grow; and their ashes, by analysis, are found to con-

tain, besides potash, the carbonates of lime and magnesia, silica, alumina, and certain metallic oxides. It is therefore most probable, that, instead of being the sole food of the plant, as contended by some; or, according to others the mere solvent of the food and the means by which the plant is enabled to absorb it, water acts in both ways as a direct nutriment in itself, and as the means by which the plant is enabled to obtain other food, necessary for its health and vigour. The leaves, as well as the roots, are furnished with absorbent vessels; and some vegetables draw the greater part of their nourishment, by means of their leaves, from the air, which, like the soil they stand in, is a compound, some parts of which are more favourable to vegetation than others.

The soil of the beech and maple lands, which compose the greater part of Susquehanna county, is a sandy loam, about eighteen inches in depth, resting on a compact bed of argillaceous earth, and minute sand; which, from its retentive nature, is extremely well calculated to prevent the escape of moisture, and to preserve the fertilizing quality of the manures which may be intermingled with the superincumbent soil.

It must be confessed, that agriculture appears to be, in general, but little understood in our county; and the neglect with which fields and farms are treated, is calculated to give to strangers an unfavourable opinion of the soil. In many places we see fields but lately cleared of their woods, neglected and suffered to be overgrown with bushes and briars; or crop after crop is taken from the same field, the seed having been strewn upon the stubble of the preceding harvest, and merely harrowed in; no plough used; and, indeed, sometimes no harrow, the seed and the harvest being trusted to the mercy of heaven. The soil must naturally be very prolific, or who could expect to see such a seed time followed by any harvest!

There is also a want of attention to the fences, as well as of care and neatness about the farms, for which we can seek an excuse only in the recollection of the very short space of time which has elapsed since every farm, as well as the seat of justice at which we are now assembled, was covered with an apparently interminable forest. And when we see the improvements which have sprung up with such rapidity, we may reasonably hope, that a few years more will change the intention which we are now disposed to censure into economy and care. This Society may do much good; and it is a pleasure to see a disposition to become members of it, generally pervade the county. It is to be hoped that reformation will begin among its members. There is no slight connexion between industry and good morals; and we might become more attentive to the appearance of our farms, if we supposed, as is sometimes the case, that their condition was indicative of the good or ill qualities, as citizens and neighbours, of their owners.

A farmer should attend to the neatness and convenience of his house, as on that much of the health and comfort of his family depends. The Dutch have a proverb, that paint costs nothing. It preserves and beautifies his buildings; and neatness commenced in one thing

is generally extended to others. But he should remember that his farm is his great object, and take care that no subordinate parts exceed their due proportion of expense. Neatness costs nothing. It is frequently the case that a farmer builds a larger house than he can complete, and it remains afterwards unpainted and unglazed, a mark of his want of skill in proportioning his expenditures.

No one sees a good garden attached to a farm house, without forming a favourable opinion of the owner's industry.—Much of the attention required in it may be done by children, and much of the comfort and economy of a family depends on an ample supply of culinary vegetables.

Great care should be taken in the proper position of the barn, both for the general convenience of the farm, by which much labor may be saved, and for the preservation of the manure made at it; on which much of the farmer's wealth is to depend. The great secret of good farming is, to enlarge the dung heap. Wherever manure can be made in abundance, the farmer has his crops at his command. But when crops are raised, there is no safety for them without good fences. A farmer will be likely to experience more vexation from bad fences, than from any other cause. His own, and his neighbor's cattle are perpetually annoying him, and the fairest hopes of his fields are at the mercy of all the unruly animals on his farm, or in his vicinity.

An orchard is an object of much importance. The best fruits should be planted. The ground they occupy, is the same as that occupied by the worst.

The indiscriminate destruction of timber, which we see in this county, is deserving of much reprehension. If, in clearing lands, groves of timber were left interwoven among the fields, besides the beauty of a farm cleared in this manner; they would be useful as a shelter for cattle in the heats of the summer, and as a reservation of fuel, against the time when that article shall become scarce, as it has done in all the long settled counties, where timbered lands are considered much more valuable than the cleared. Many think they can never digest the abundance which is around them; but if they will compare what is already cleared off, with the shortness of time which this county has been populated, they will have reason to change this opinion. It has been calculated, that from ten to fifteen acres are necessary for the permanent supply of each fire-place, where wood is used much less profusely than with us; and this independent of all the other farm uses to which it is applied. A farmer should examine his ground well before he cuts a tree, and leave those parts where it will be most useful or ornamental. He should also be careful to leave the best kinds of timber, especially the sugar maple, the produce of which is not only useful in his family, but may be generally sold at twice the expense of procuring it. This tree is one of the most beautiful of our forest; and, consequently, if planted along lanes, or division fences, would be ornamental as well as useful.

No expense should be spared in procuring

the most suitable implements of agriculture. Every one knows the labour which must be expended, and the time lost, if his implements are out of order; and should recollect the adage that "time is money;" an adage which, I believe, you will all say, is but little attended to among us. A place should be provided to receive all the farming tools, that no time may be spent in searching round the farm for them, when wanted; and whenever an instrument is done with, it should be deposited in its proper place.

A farmer should not attempt to sow or plant more ground than he can accomplish in suitable season, and attend to in a proper manner. It is better to cultivate one acre well, than several ill. He will get both more reputation and more produce by it.

The best seeds should always be sown. Much has been said, and written, about the necessity of changing seeds, and procuring new ones from distant places; but doubts may be entertained of the propriety of this practice, especially if a farmer endeavours to raise the best seeds, and if a rotation of crops be attended to. The utility of a rotation of crops appears to be pointed out by nature, in the changes of plants and timber which she is perpetually exhibiting to our eyes: There is every reason to believe, that at a former period this county produced timber different from the kinds which are now prevalent. Places covered with beech, sugar maple, and hemlock, have formerly been clothed with white pine and oak, of which, in some spots, are still to be seen the gigantic remains. And where beech and sugar maple timber have been lately burnt off, and the land neglected, other kinds, particularly cherry and birch, in astonishing abundance, grow in their places. These are proofs of the changes which nature is constantly effecting. This disposition to change their ground, has been supposed to be evinced by some plants which are propagated by their roots, as potatoes, which, by extending themselves beneath the surface, form new beds as they spread; and the strawberry effects the same change by its runners. Nature has provided many plants with the power of shifting the position of their progeny by downy seeds, which are scattered by the winds; others again are furnished with barbs by which they are attached to passing animals, and carried abroad. Writers on agriculture say, that, by continuing the culture of a particular plant for a long time in one place, the ground, as they term it, becomes sick of it, and refuses to bear it any longer; that is, perhaps, the peculiar quality of the soil, which gave it a strong propensity to particular vegetation, becomes exhausted, and it is rendered necessary to introduce new plants. But, although this change of plants be proper, it does not follow that a change of seeds is equally so; and I think that a farmer acts upon the wisest system, who endeavours to make his own grounds supply him with the best seeds. By doing so, he is more certain of the kind and quality of those which he sows, than when he trusts to those procured from a distance. By crossing different plants of the same genus, it is probable that many useful varieties may be produced.

The farmers among us who have ploughed their lands, (and foreigners will hear with astonishment of farmers who do not plough) have found in their crops proofs of the advantage of their culture, but even they do not plough deep enough. The plough cannot be forced to the bottom of our soil—the subsoil is beneath its reach. The quality of the crop must depend, in a great measure, on the depth of ploughing, and the mellowness given to the soil by culture, which enables the roots of plants to spread themselves through it, and obtain more abundant nourishment. Deep ploughing permits all excess of rain to drain from the surface, to a depth where it is retained for the uses of the plants, as the roots may require it: and hence, in such situations, plants are less liable to suffer from the extremes of rain or drought. It cannot be expected that wheat or corn will grow well in ground matted with the roots of grass or weeds. In this particular, new land has an advantage over old. It is received pure from the hand of nature; and if weeds are afterwards seen in it, they are the consequence of neglect. If the proper kinds of grass seeds be sowed, in suitable quantity, they will effectually prevent the growth of weeds.

The grass seeds that are used here, are neither, in general, of the right kinds, nor are they sown in sufficient quantity. Both meadow and pasture should be formed by a mixture of grasses growing at different periods, so that they might follow each other in succession. White clover, among the best pasture grasses, is a native of our soil, and grows spontaneously. Sir John Sinclair, one of the most scientific farmers of the age, recommends land to be laid down with ten pounds of red clover, ten pounds of white clover, ten pounds of trefoil, and three pecks of rye grass seeds. He considers the grass better when sown thick—and observes, that if it be sown too thick, it will die off to a proper standard. Some farmers in England sow upwards of three bushels of grass seeds per acre. Perhaps in our soil nothing would be found superior to a mixture of red clover and orchard grass, both for abundance of produce, and permanency of pasture.

In England, where farming is carried to great perfection, and where the annual rent and taxes of a farm would purchase the fee simple of one of the same extent in Susquehanna county, farmers find grass their most profitable produce—and this, although the price of grain, compared with that of cattle, is fifty per centum beyond what it is with us. Our soil is peculiarly well adapted for raising the artificial grasses—and the distance we are from the markets of Philadelphia and New York, offers strong inducements to the breeding and fattening of cattle. For this purpose, however, root crops are particularly necessary—and to raise these to perfection, manure should be liberally used. We have heard the story of a person removing his barn, rather than his dung heap; and I am not sure that we could not find examples of this nature in Susquehanna county. In the use of dung, it has been sufficiently proven, that although short and rotten dung will give, of some things, the best crop for the first year, yet long dung is more lasting, and will produce a greater effect the second and third years. Arthur

Young, to whom Great Britain is indebted for much of her agricultural knowledge, says, "that sixty-seven cart loads of fresh yard dung, produced seven hundred and forty-two bushels of potatoes; while at the same time, the same quantity of yard dung, after 6 months rotting, yielded but seven hundred and eight bushels. But had the fresh dung been kept as long as the other, it would have taken twice or thrice as much to make the quantity used"—the dung by rotting, settling into a smaller space. A ton of straw, it has been calculated, will, if judiciously managed, make four tons of dung, by which a third of the ground may be manured from which the straw was taken. Dung, during the putrefactive process, gives out gases, which are peculiarly useful to vegetation; and it is most beneficial when applied to the soil during that process. If, as it has been stated, fresh dung is injurious to tap roots, it must be from the excess of its stimulus to the plant. It is considered best not to overload the soil with manure, but to apply it to fallow or root crops only, and that at the rate of from ten to fifteen tons per acre. In countries that are very populous, the greatest care is necessary to save every article that tends to fertilise the ground, in order to supply the demands made on it by the population. The Chinese are said to save even the clippings of their hair and nails for this purpose. When the rice fields are flooded, they procure the roe of fish which they put into them, and which vivifying, a part grows large enough to be eaten by the time the water is drawn off, and the remainder, by rotting on the ground, improves its fertility. Young says, that were he an inhabitant of a particular part of France, he would manure four acres annually with flies, which are there in astonishing abundance; and Darwin proposes to place the dung heap in a situation where it may be flooded with water, and becoming a moving mass of insect life, in that state to be conveyed to the field. In England, malt dust is not unfrequently used; and an opulent brewer has even manured his fields with dried yeast. Ground bones are also employed there in such quantities, as to exhaust their own supply, and call for aid from other countries; and not content with the remains of inferior animals, bits of lace, and fragments of coffins, sometimes mingled with the imported bones, indicate the search for the means of increasing the product of the farm, to have been extended to the cemetery and the field of battle. Among the various things used as manures are, lime, gypsum, chalk, marl, sea shells, common salt, sea and fresh water weeds, fish, horn shavings, woolen rags, ashes, peat, oil cake, soot, night-soil; besides clover, buck-wheat, and other green crops ploughed in.

A difference of opinion exists, whether the beneficial quality of dung is lost by being washed by rain below the soil, or by evaporation through it. They who advocate the opinion of its sinking will prefer putting the dung in shallow; while others will be in favour of covering it deep. Probably both opinions are, in some degree, right—and that a part in the form of gasses, escapes into the air, while the more earthy parts dissolved by the water, are washed deep into the ground.

Potatoes are an excellent fallow crop—for, independent of the attention required in their culture while growing, it is necessary to turn over every particle of soil in searching for them, at their harvest. Other root crops, however, may be more profitable, and their product much more abundant. Our soil is extremely well calculated for turnips, ruta бага and mangel-wurtzel, all of which yield great crops; pumpkins are usually raised by our farmers among their corn—but, although useful that way, I am persuaded that there are few crops that will better pay the farmer's care, than pumpkins raised by themselves. And it is useful for a farmer to have as great a variety of forage and provender as he conveniently can. Without pumpkins and abundant root crops, he will feed his cattle to great disadvantage.

The most approved breeds of animals should be procured, particularly those which are fattened with most ease, as they are kept with less expense than the lank and hungry kinds, and better repay care and attention to them. The long legged hogs cost more to fatten than the short legged. The long wooled and valuable breeds of sheep cost no more to keep than those of the worst description—and the cow which gives an abundance of milk, consumes little more of the farmer's produce, than one totally unfit for the dairy. The most desirable properties of live stock have been treated by writers on the subject, under the heads of size, form, early maturity, hardness of constitution, lightness of offal, prolific quality, a tendency to grow and a disposition to fatten. It is generally conceded, that moderate sized cattle are to be preferred before the very large ones, as being more easily fattened, kept at less expense, and more marketable. Cattle should be chosen with short legs, their heads and bones small, their bodies long and round, and chests deep and capacious. By an early maturity, much of the expense of their food is saved; which is also the case with those breeds most disposed to fatten.

Every farmer should seek for the best kinds of all the articles which he intends to cultivate, and the country will be greatly indebted to him who shall introduce the best breed of any of the domestic animals, or whose example shall spread among his neighbours the culture of the most useful kinds of grain, grasses and roots.

Domestic manufactures are intimately connected with the farm. I mean those manufactures properly called domestic—those which are made in the farmer's house, and by the hands of his wife and daughters, whom he furnishes with wool and flax of his own produce, and whose industry, properly applied, while it shields them from the dangers of idleness, clothes the family with strong and warm apparel. Too much attention cannot be paid to this, and it remains for the society to encourage female skill and industry, by premiums for the best articles of household manufactures, which shall be exhibited at our next meeting. Of the advantage of these manufactures there cannot be a doubt. They tend to make the farmer independent, by reducing his expenses, and furnishing him from his farm and household with articles of indispensable necessity; and the in-

dustry requisite in making them, is useful to the good conduct and morals of his family.

But such manufactures are very different in their effect, from those which are accomplished by crowds of men, women, and children, grouped together in buildings which resemble hospitals or barracks, and which must be forced and supported by extravagant bounties, in the shape of duties on importations. The large manufacturing districts in Europe are noted as the abodes of ignorance, want, and disease; and this must be the case wherever thousands depend for their daily bread upon the inclination of one person, or on the uncertain demand for the manufactured article. A diminution of the price of this, may render it impossible for the fabricators of it to procure the means of subsistence—while the situation of the farmer is so fortunate, that no diminution of the value of the products of his farm, can lessen the facility with which he may find the means of support. To him the fluctuations of trade and commerce are comparatively of little importance.

The natural and healthy growth of manufactures in the United States, is a desirable circumstance. But great bounties would go to enrich the few owners of the establishments, and be unfelt by the many labourers employed in the works. It was an observation, and a very correct one of a former President of the United States, that "agriculture, manufactures, commerce and navigation, the four pillars of our prosperity, are most thriving when left to individual enterprise." But if, instead of being left to individual enterprise, large bounties are given to encourage the manufacturer, why should not the farmer expect the government to pay him also bounties for his produce, which, when exported, tends to enrich the nation? But the genius of our government is opposed to this system of favoring one class of citizens at the expense of the others; and we had better leave the tangled web of European policy untouched. The conversion of the robust farmer into the palid manufacturer, certainly does not appear to be a desirable metamorphose; and the policy of adding to the high duties already laid on imported articles, by which the inducement to smuggling would be increased, and the public revenue probably so diminished, as to lead to the adoption of a direct tax on our farms, is, at least, of a very questionable nature. The certain result of the measure must be, a diminution of commerce, and a serious injury to the prosperity of the navy, which the events of the last war have convinced us, is the cheapest, and most efficient national defence. Is there one so lukewarm as to look with indifference on any source of his country's prosperity and glory? What shall we then think of any measure, which might jeopardize that arm, to which, participating in our country's weal, we look as to the sure guardian of her fame, and the principal foundation of her power!

If the wealth of a state consists in the surplus of its products, what can be more wise than to promote, by all means, a diffusion of agricultural information among our citizens—and the information of societies, whose particular objects are the improvement of the soil, and the way to make two blades of grass grow

where but one sprung before; or two bushels of wheat where but one could, by the former culture, have been produced! Money appropriated by a government for these purposes, is like a trifling amount of seed scattered on the land, from which an abundant harvest is to be gathered. Frederick of Prussia, who deserves to be not less celebrated as a political economist, than as a successful commander, expended upwards of a million of dollars annually in the agricultural improvement of his kingdom, (one not naturally favoured by Ceres,) and by this judicious expenditure, he enriched his subjects and filled his treasury to overflowing. Indeed, whatever money may be expended in this way, must be returned to the public coffers infinitely multiplied; and the legislator who acts on different principles, neglects his country's prosperity, and may well be compared to the wicked and slothful servant, who, instead of endeavouring to increase the talent entrusted to his care, concealed it in the ground.

England has derived infinite advantage from the establishment of a board of agriculture, and the formation of agricultural societies. The state of New York has, very wisely, pursued the same path, with a zeal which ensures success, and we may hope that Pennsylvania will not linger behind, when the extent of her territory, and her internal wealth should urge her to be among the foremost in the race of improvement; and some evidence of a favourable disposition is displayed at present, since we meet under an act of assembly incorporating us as an agricultural society.

Among the means of disseminating useful knowledge, are the newspapers of the county; and the printers may render much service, if they will abstain from political animosity, which destroys the happiness of neighbourhoods, and devote a considerable part of their papers to agricultural topics. Fortunately for the peace of the community, there is, at present, little discord on the subject of general politics; all parties in the national government being so blended together, that the former lines of division are difficult to be discovered. Who shall be the pilot or helmsman is of little consequence provided the course steered be a correct one. And as to the affairs of the subordinate governments composing the Union, the making of good roads for the transportation of articles raised within the county, is of infinitely greater importance to the inhabitants, than the election of any candidate to the chair of state.

It is to be hoped that the legislature will possess that liberal and enlightened spirit, without which no public business can be conducted in a prosperous manner; and that the appropriation bill, for the purpose of aiding the internal improvements of the state, brought before the assembly at the last session, will be passed at the present one. The formation of good roads is of the utmost importance, as the means of facilitating the intercourse between the different parts of the state, and of enabling the surplus produce to be taken, with the least expense, to the commercial depot. It must be recollected that this surplus is our only gain; and that what is consumed in the family, adds not to the value of our estates. What, therefore, is saved by the farmer in the transportation of his grain

and cattle to market, is so much made, and added to his wealth. A small amount of saving, calculated on each bushel of surplus grain, and head of cattle raised in Susquehanna county, would make an important total; and the legislator who shall devote his exertions to produce, in our public councils, a proper sense of the importance of roads, bridges and canals, will render much more service to the community, than he who shall spend his time in the bickerings of party prejudice, or the "low ambition" of endeavouring to distinguish himself as a political leader.

We have reason to be satisfied with the exertions of the late members of the senate and assembly from this district, in favor of turnpike roads, bridges, and canals; and I hope that they who have been lately elected, will emulate the zeal of their predecessors, in advocating the appropriations to these most necessary improvements of the state.

HAY MAKING.

The great value of a HORSE RAKE, with directions for making and using it.

SIR,

As I have received much information by the perusal of the American Farmer, I ought freely to give any that I know would be useful to farmers. I will therefore describe the hay rake that has been in use near the South Branch of the Potomac for twenty years. We think it truly a labour saving machine—the head of it is made of strong white oak scantling, three and a half inches by four and a half, and ten feet long—for it must have weight and strength. The teeth are of strong wood, and put through the head with an inch and half augur, distant about nine inches from centre to centre, about eighteen inches long below the head, and go so far through as to admit a pin above the head, following a half inch augur, to keep them up to a half inch shoulder, which is on the back part of the teeth, where they enter the head, and which is intended to give the teeth strength, at the spot where it is most needed, as they seldom break at any other place. The teeth are then shaved off thin before and behind, leaving sufficient substance in the middle—they are made true to a line on the front edge, and of an equal length. We then put two shafts in the other square of the head, something like cart shafts, but straight poles will do as well; they are put through the head in a mortice one inch by four, and go through the head so far as to admit an inch pin behind the head for the convenience of taking the shafts out, when we wish to put the rake in a cart to move from one meadow to another, or when we want to stow it away after our mowing is done. The shafts are of sufficient length to let the rake drag about three feet behind the horse, which gives room enough for the hay to collect in. They are made fast to the hames by a pin which is put through near to the end to put a rope or chain round.

We have two sets of handles, one about eighteen inches long, put in with a five quarter augur, and something like plough handles, for the raker to press the teeth to the sod, as the rake inclines to rise when full of hay; the others two short pins, put in between the

long handles, and low in the head; when the raker comes to his winrow, he lets go the long handles, and takes hold of the short pins, to lift up his rake, and drop the load at its place; the long handles stand too high for this purpose. The shafts being made fast to the horses, gives great ease in lifting the rake. We use but one horse in it. We rake across the swaths and make the winrows wide or close as the crop of hay is light or heavy. If your horse walks lively, one rake will winrow as fast as four or five men can put in cock. I do not know how much ground it would go over in a day, but I believe it would rake twenty acres with ease.—We frequently have a man with a hand-rake to follow in case of stumps, or in fence corners, to rake the locks which are missed to the nearest winrow. In putting in the shafts we make the mortices through the head in a direction that will give the points of the teeth a little inclination forward but not so much, as the hay would not then drop readily enough at the winrow, for the horse must not stop when the rake is lifted. We have an expeditious way of drawing the hay into the cock with a horse and rope, or poles; which saves much trouble in securing it and which I will describe in my next letter to you.

Very respectfully, ABEL SEYMOUR.
J. S. SKINNER, Esq.

THE FARMER.

BALTIMORE, FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 1821.

PRICES CURRENT.

Flour from the wagons, \$4 12½—Whiskey from do. 27 cents, including barrel—Hay, per ton, \$18 a 20—Straw, do 7 a \$8—Wheat, White, 83 a 85 cents—Red, do. 80 a 81—Corn, 35 a 37, brisk sales—Oats, 23 a 24—Rye, 40—Cod fish, per quintal, wholesale, \$3, retail do. \$4—New-England Beans per bushel, \$1 12½—ditto Peas, 75 cents—Plaster in stone \$6 per ton—do, ground, \$1 35 per barrel, 33 cts. per bushel, \$8 per ton—New-Orleans sugar, \$9 to 12 50—Muscovado, do. \$9 a 12—American White Lead, \$12 50—Ground do. 13 a 14—Linseed Oil, 75 cents—Feathers, 40 a 45 cents—Potatoes, per bushel, 6½ a 75 cents—Shad, new, \$6—Herrings, \$2 a \$2 25, declining—Fine Salt, 55 cents per bushel—Ground Allum do 55 a 60—St Ubes, 60—Cadiz, 50 a 55—Turks Island, 75—Live Cattle, \$5 a 5 50—Beef, 8 to 10 cents—Hams, 10 a 12 cents—Middlings, 17 cents—Butter, 25 cents—Peas 50 cents per bushel—Strawberries, per quart, 8 cents—Cherries 10 to 12 cents—Eggs, 12½ cents—Cheese 8 a 10 cents per pound—Tar \$1 50—Turpentine, 1 87½ a 2—Pitch 2½—Rosin, common, \$1½, bright do. \$3 per barrel—Varnish, 25 cents—Spirits Turpentine, 33 cents per gallon—Cotton, (good Upland) 14 a 15 cents; very dull—Rice 3 a 3½ cents—Ship and Flooring Plank, \$5 a 27—shingles, best 6½ a \$7, common, \$3 to 4½ per M.

Tobacco.—Calvert County fired, new crop, 2 hhd. at \$12 50—Common, unfired, 12 hhd. at from 4 to \$6—Anne Arundle, 7 hhd. at 4 and \$5—Frederick County, 2 hhd. at \$16 50—Anne Arundle, fine yellow, 14 50 a 15 50—Common crop, 4 50 a \$6—Virginia Tobacco, no sales.

Pennsylvania—1 hhd. fine yellow sold for \$19.
Kentucky—10 hhd. good quality at \$6 50.

STRAW CUTTER.

PERSONS in want of the improved Patent STRAW CUTTER, which received the marked approbation of the Agricultural Society at the late Fair, are respectfully informed, that all orders left with, or directed to Ely Balderson, Smith's Wharf, Baltimore, or the subscriber in Philadelphia, will be strictly attended to.

DERICK BARNARD.